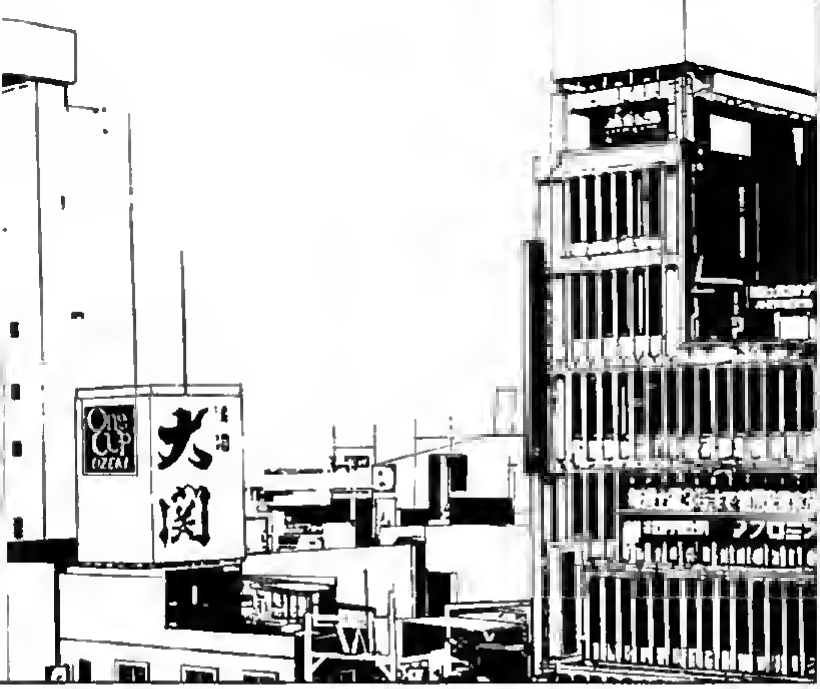
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!
ドン
WAS I DREAM-ING?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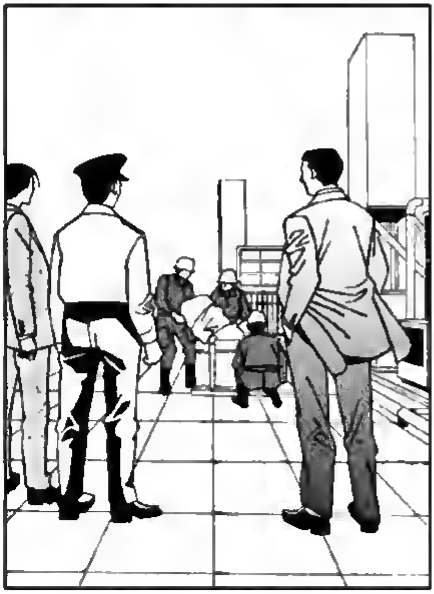
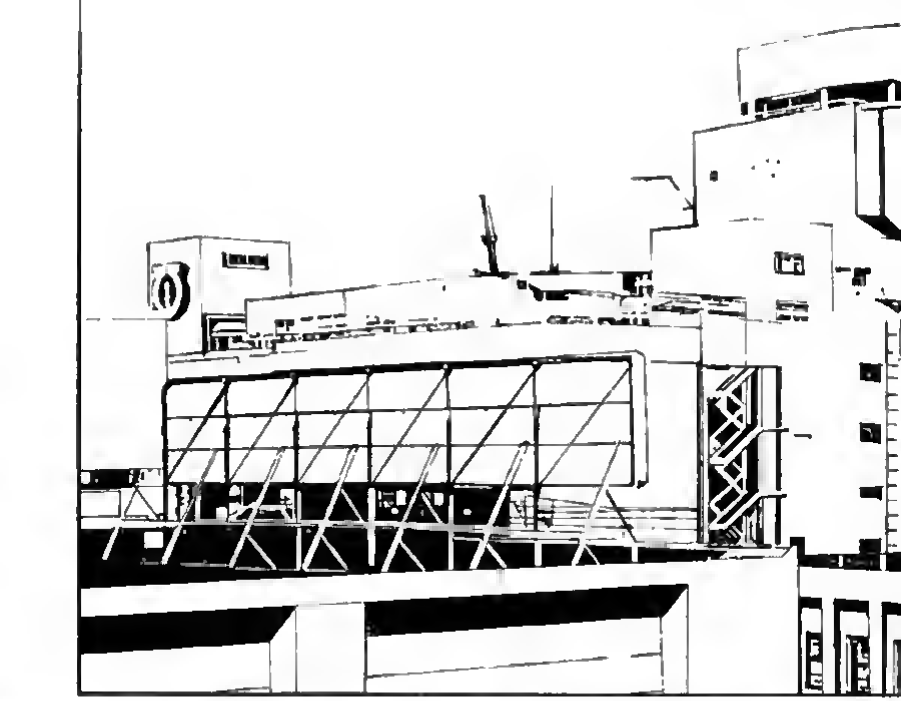
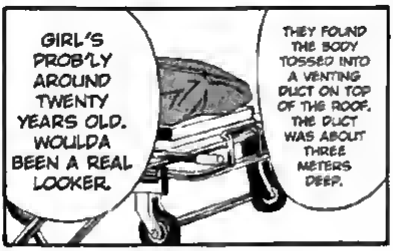
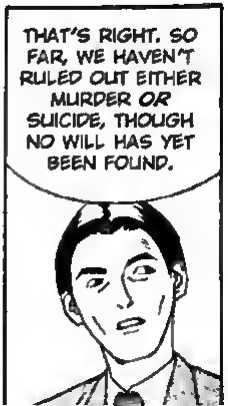


OK, I GOT IT!
SLOWLY! SLOWLY...

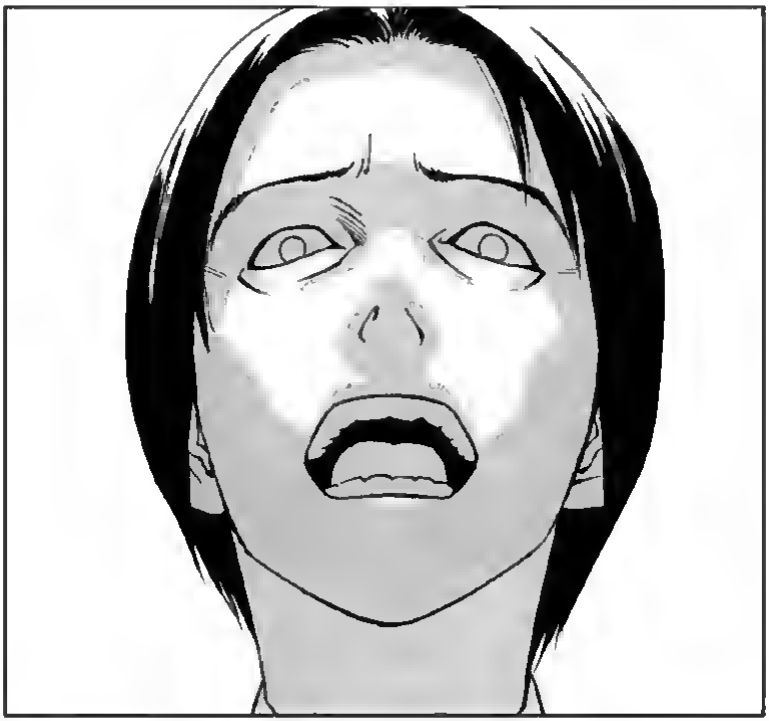


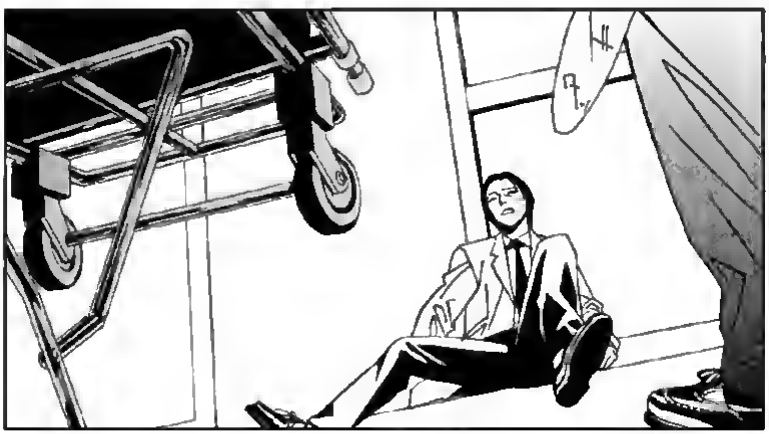
GENTLEMEN. THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED ON A ROOFTOP, IS THAT CORRECT?
WE'VE BROUGHT IN THE JANE DOE, DOCTOR.


GIRL'S PROB'LY AROUND TWENTY YEARS OLD. WOULDA BEEN A REAL LOOKER.
THEY FOUND THE BODY TOSSED INTO A VENTING DUCT ON TOP OF THE ROOF. THE DUCT WAS ABOUT THREE METERS DEEP.


THAT'S RIGHT. SO FAR, WE HAVEN'T RULED OUT EITHER MURDER OR SUICIDE, THOUGH NO WILL HAS YET BEEN FOUND.

EXCUSE ME.





WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR? IS IT SOMEONE THAT YOU KNOW?
DOCTOR ?! ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?

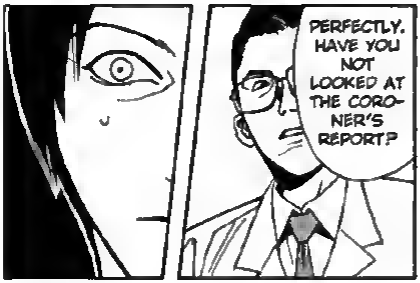
YOU'RE SURE IT'S HER?

I ONLY MET HER TWICE.
HER NAME WAS TAKANO ...

PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PULMONARY ARTERY, AND BE SURE TO GET A TISSUE SAMPLE.

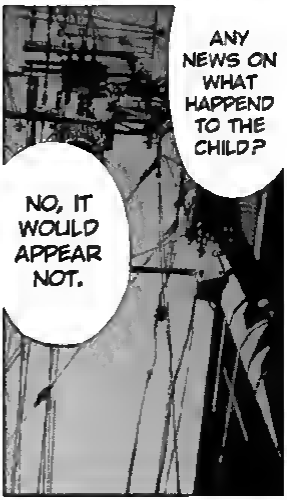
TAKANO MAI'S DEATH, AS IT TURNS OUT, WAS NOT THE RESULT OF A HEART ATTACK. WE WON'T KNOW MORE 'TIL WE GET THE RESULTS OF THE TISSUE SAMPLE BACK, BUT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION REVEALED NO ABNORMALITIES IN THE PULMONARY ARTERY. EXTERNAL INJURIES ARE LIMITED TO A BROKEN RIGHT ANKLE AND LACERATIONS ON BOTH KNEES, POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF FALLING INTO THE VENTING DUCT. PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS IS, UH... SEVERELY WEAKENED BODILY CONDITION LEADING TO DEATH FROM EXPOSURE.

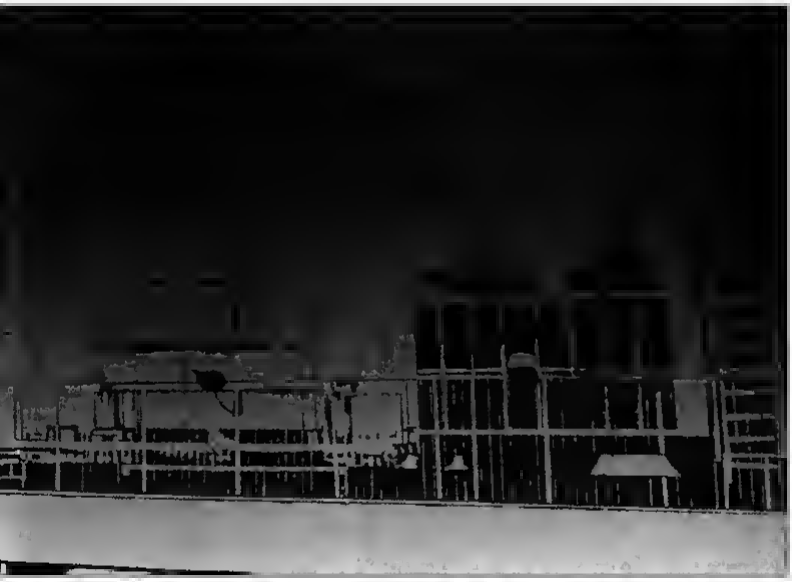
Autopsy Report

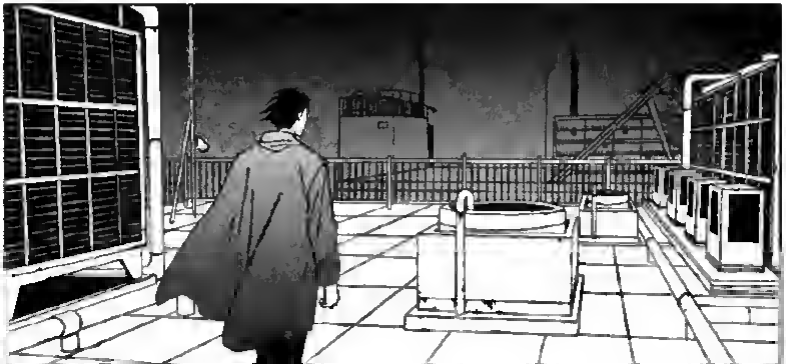

PERFECTLY. HAVE YOU NOT LOOKED AT THE CORONER'S REPORT?

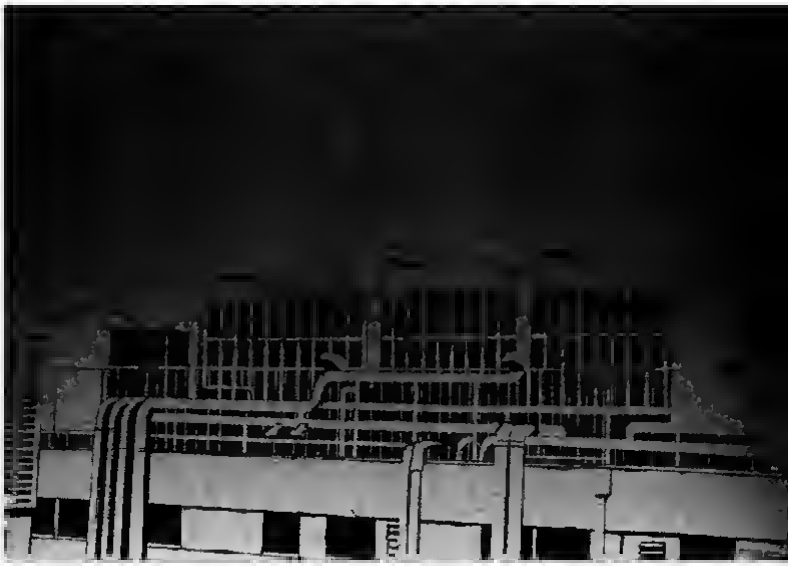
GIVEN BIRTH ...
ARE YOU SURE ?

POLICE ARE DOING A SEARCH OF THE NEARBY AREA, BUT SO FAR, NOTHING.


ANY NEWS ON WHAT HAPPEND TO THE CHILD?
NO, IT WOULD APPEAR NOT.







AND IF SHE GAVE BIRTH, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BABY?
TAKANO MAI CAME TO THIS SPOT. BUT WHY? TO DO WHAT?
MAL.. HELP ME TO UNDER-STAND ...
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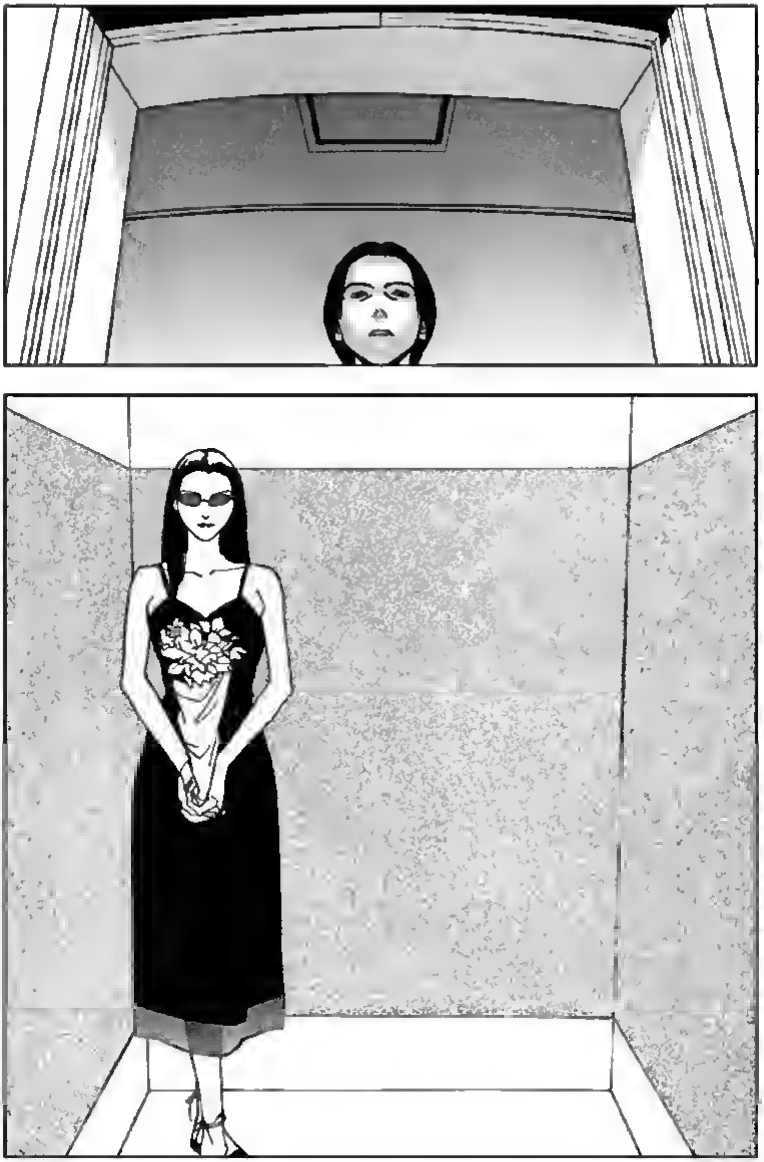
1 2 3 4 5 6



RASEN - CHAPTER 4
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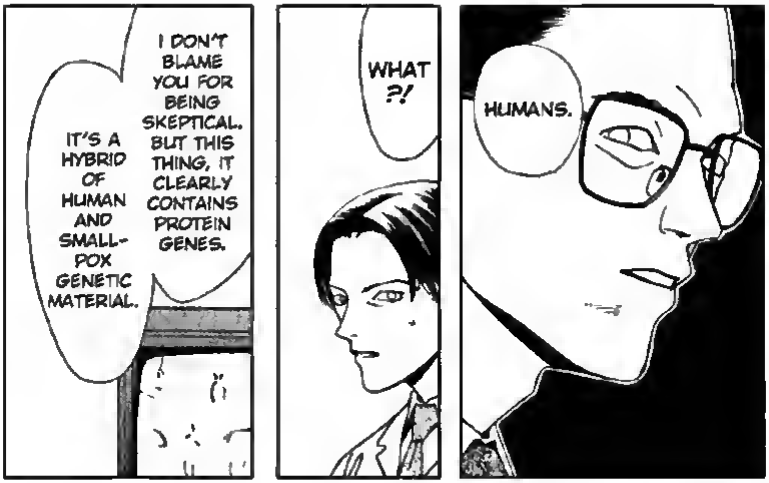
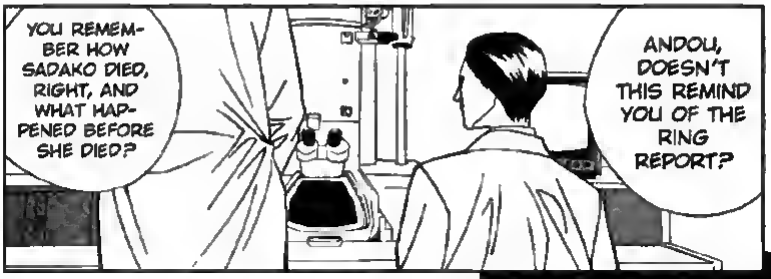
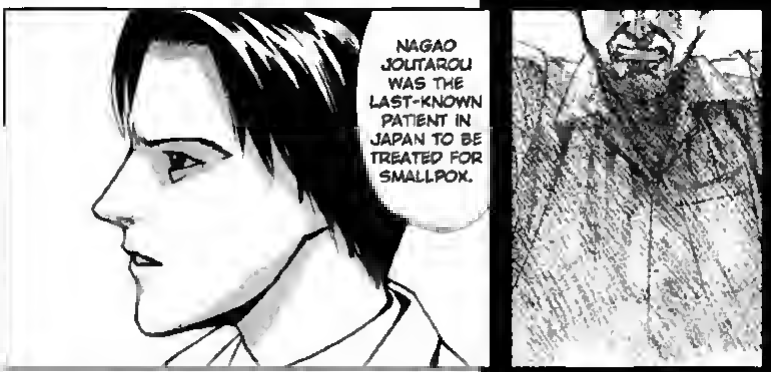
TRANSLATOR: J. LOPEZ
EDITOR: MIHARU

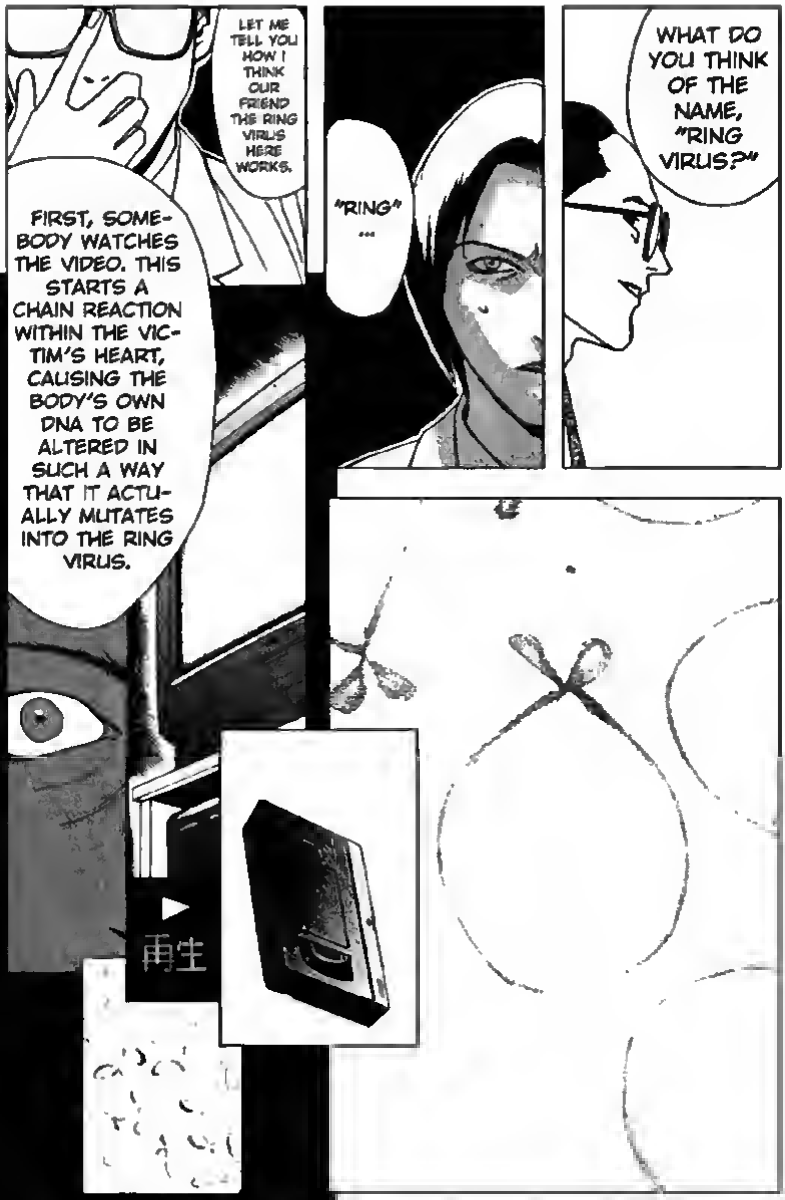
JESUS. IT'S SQUIRMING.
GOOD. STOP.
RAISE THE MAGNIFICATION A BIT MORE.
TAKE IT TO X21,000.
WHAT IT IS, IS A VIRUS THE LIKES OF WHICH WE'VE NEVER SEEN.
ONE THING IN OUR FAVOR, AT LEAST, IS THAT COMMUNICABILITY APPEARS EXTREMELY LIMITED... FOR THE MOMENT.

I RAN THIS THING THROUGH THE DNA SEQUENCER, AND CAME UP WITH AN ANALYSIS OF ITS BASE ARRANGEMENT. GENETICALLY SPEAKING, IT IS VERY SIMILAR TO SMALLPOX.
YOU'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO OLD SEKI, THOUGH-- HE WAS THE FIRST TO MAKE THE CONNECTION TO SMALL-POX.
WELL, ABOUT 70% THE SAME.
BUT NOT THE SAME?
ENZYMES? FOR WHAT TYPE OF ORGAN-ISM?
YOU READY FOR THIS? ITS BASE ARRANGEMENT IS AN EXACT MATCH FOR THE KIND OF GENE THAT ENCODES *ENZYMES*.
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER 30?

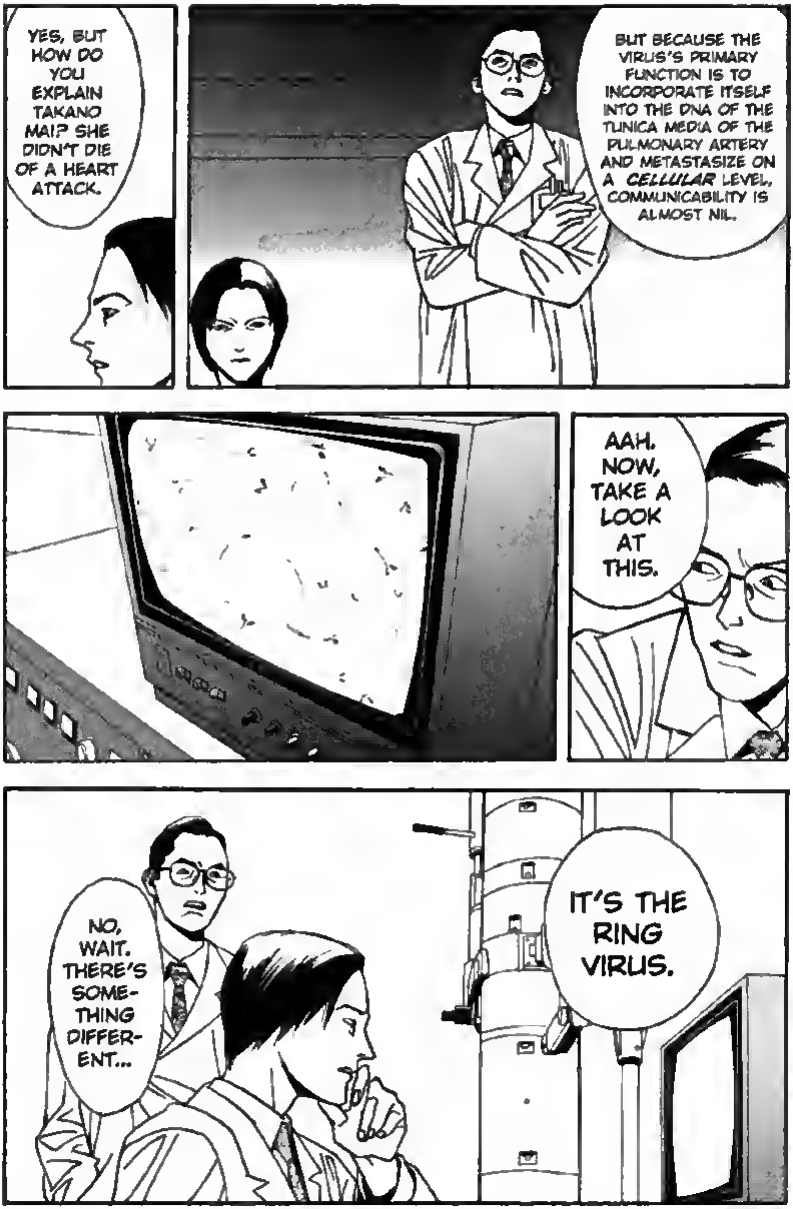

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING SKEPTICAL. BUT THIS THING, IT CLEARLY CONTAINS PROTEIN GENES.
IT'S A HYBRID OF HUMAN AND SMALL-POX GENETIC MATERIAL.
WHAT ?!
HUMANS.


YOU REMEMBER HOW SADAKO DIED, RIGHT, AND WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE SHE DIED?
ANDOU, DOESN'T THIS REMIND YOU OF THE RING REPORT?


NAGAO JOUTAROU WAS THE LAST-KNOWN PATIENT IN JAPAN TO BE TREATED FOR SMALLPOX.

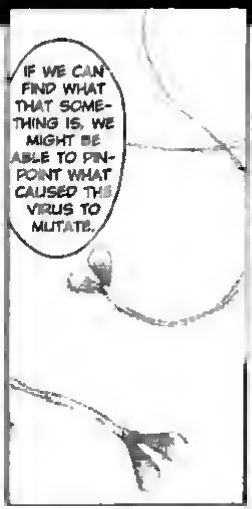

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NAME, "RING VIRUS?"
"RING" ...
LET ME TELL YOU HOW I THINK OUR FRIEND THE RING VIRUS HERE WORKS.
FIRST, SOMEBODY WATCHES THE VIDEO. THIS STARTS A CHAIN REACTION WITHIN THE VICTIM'S HEART, CAUSING THE BODY'S OWN DNA TO BE ALTERED IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT ACTUALLY MUTATES INTO THE RING VIRUS.
再生

THE VIRUS THEN SURROUNDS THE HEART, CAUSING A CANCEROUS GROWTH TO FORM IN THE VICTIM'S PULMONARY ARTERY.
IN EXACTLY ONE WEEK, THE GROWTH HAS BECOME LARGE ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY BLOCK THE ARTERY, HALTING BLOOD FLOW AND CAUSING THE HEART TO CEASE PUMPING.
THE VICTIM DIES.

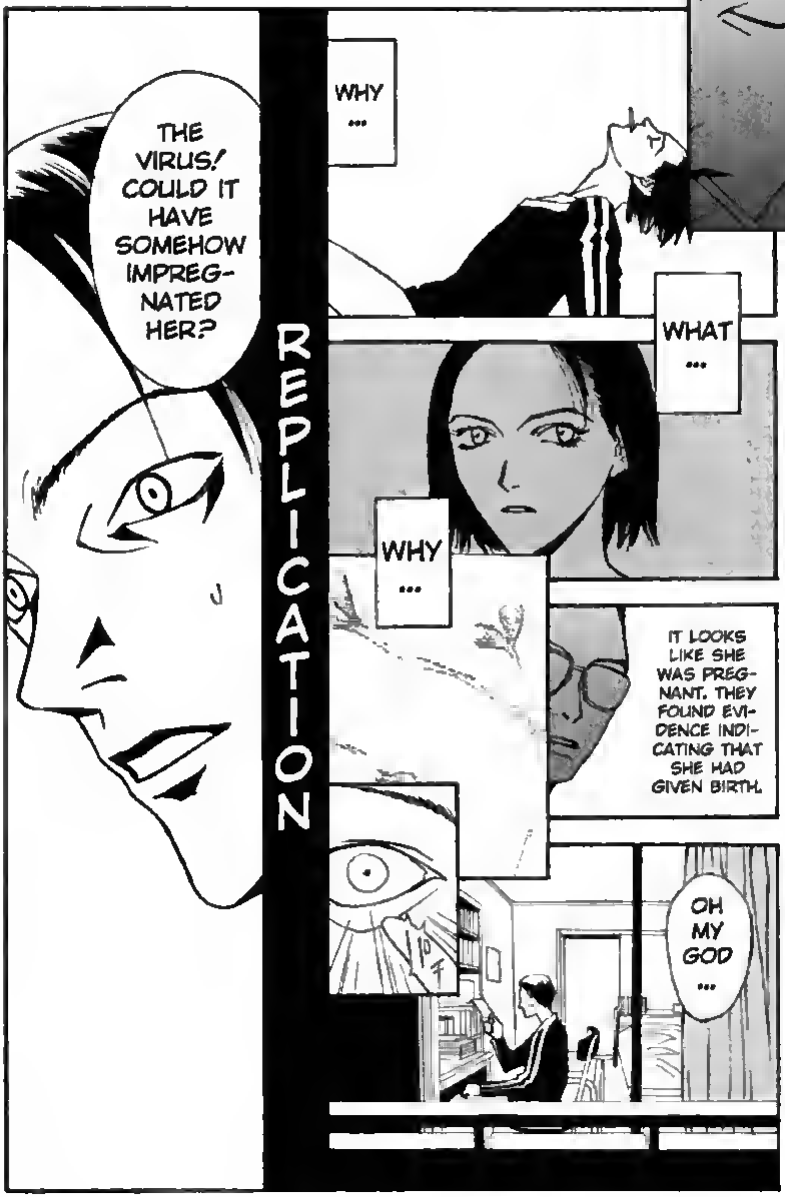

YES, BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN TAKANO MAI? SHE DIDN'T DIE OF A HEART ATTACK.
BUT BECAUSE THE VIRUS'S PRIMARY FUNCTION IS TO INCORPORATE ITSELF INTO THE DNA OF THE TUNICA MEDIA OF THE PULMONARY ARTERY AND METASTASIZE ON A *CELLULAR* LEVEL, COMMUNICABILITY IS ALMOST NIL.
AAH. NOW, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
NO, WAIT. THERE'S SOME-THING DIFFER-ENT...
IT'S THE RING VIRUS.

MAI WAS INFECTED BY THE VIRUS, YES.
EXACTLY. IT'S MUTATED. BY WAY OF CONNECTION, *THIS* SAMPLE WAS TAKEN FROM TAKANO MAI.
THIS MEANS THAT WE NOW HAVE TWO PEOPLE WHOSE DEATHS WERE NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE VIRUS.
NOR THE VIRUS ITSELF THAT KILLED HER.
BUT IT WAS NEITHER THE TAPE

TAKANO MAI AND ASAKAWA KAZUYUKI.



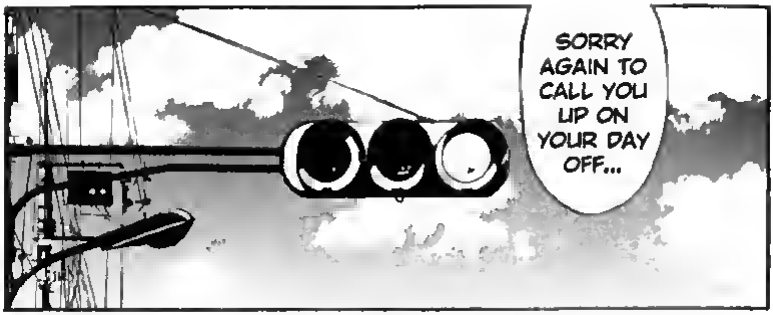
THIS VIRUS... IT REMINDS ME OF SOME-THING.
WHY WAS MAI'S HEART FREE OF THE CANCER THAT TAR-GETED THE OTHER VICTIMS?
SOME-THING...


REPLICATION
THE VIRUS! COULD IT HAVE SOMEHOW IMPREG-NATED HER?
WHY ...
WHAT ...
WHY ...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS PREG-NANT. THEY FOUND EVI-DENCE INDI-CATING THAT SHE HAD GIVEN BIRTH.
OH MY GOD ...

BUT WHAT ABOUT ASAKA-WA?
MAI GIVES BIRTH TO THE VIRUS'S "CHILD," THUS CON-TRIBUTING TO ITS REPLICA-TION.

Ring
HE'S A GUY, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

SADAKO... WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

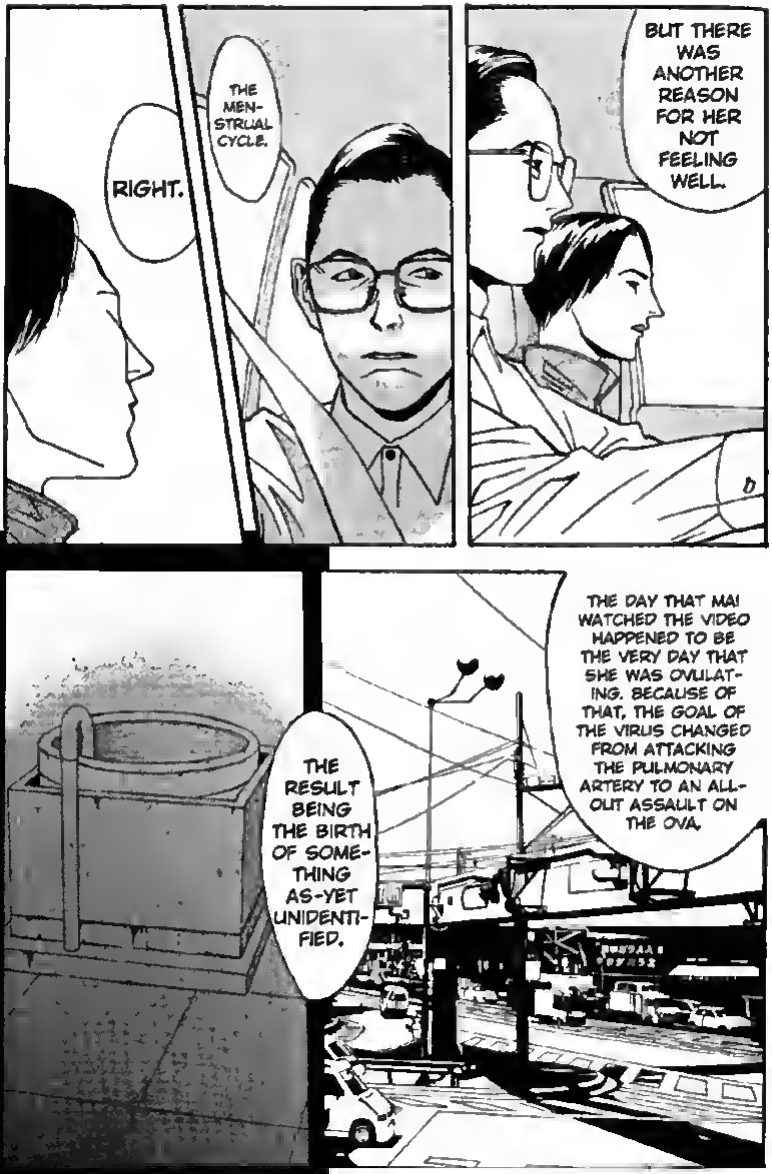

SORRY AGAIN TO CALL YOU UP ON YOUR DAY OFF...

YOU'RE DOING ME A FAVOR. I DON'T USUALLY HAVE A CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER

FIRST, I WANTED TO RUN SOME-THING BY YOU REAL QUICK, ABOUT THAT VIRUS WE SAW YESTERDAY.

WITH ANYONE LIKE THIS. WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO GO?

DID YOU THINK ?
THAT MAYBE IT... LOOKED LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D SEEN BEFORE
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.
THE WAY IT MOVED AROUND, I THOUGHT IT LOOKED LIKE SPERMATOZOA.
I THOUGHT ABOUT THE FIRST DAY WE MET AND REMEMBERED THINKING THAT SHE DIDN'T LOOK WELL, WHICH AT THE TIME I ATTRIBUTED TO SHOCK FROM RYUJI'S DEATH.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND I THOUGHT ABOUT WHY, IN ALL THE OTHER PATIENTS EXCEPT FOR MAI, WE FOUND EVIDENCE OF CANCER.


RIGHT.
THE MENSTRUAL CYCLE.
BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON FOR HER NOT FEELING WELL.
THE DAY THAT MAI WATCHED THE VIDEO HAPPENED TO BE THE VERY DAY THAT SHE WAS OVULATING. BECAUSE OF THAT, THE GOAL OF THE VIRUS CHANGED FROM ATTACKING THE PULMONARY ARTERY TO AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON THE OVA.
THE RESULT BEING THE BIRTH OF SOMETHING AS-YET UNIDENTIFIED.

JUDGING FROM THE ESTI-MATED TIME OF DEATH,
WHATEVER IT WAS THAT THE VIRUS SPAWNED INSIDE HER WAS ONLY THERE FOR A WEEK.
AND WHAT ABOUT ASAKA-WA?
WELL, WHAT IF THE VIRUS MUTATED INSIDE HIM LIKE IT DID WITH MAI, BUT BECAUSE ASAKAWA WAS A MAN, THE VIRUS HAD TO SEEK SOME OTHER FORM OF EXIT?
"SOME OTHER FORM ?"